

REMARKS

A. Claim Status

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 2-36, 56, 63 and 64 will be pending in this application. Claims 2, 3 and 63 are independent. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer, to define the invention in another form. Claims 63 and 64 have been added, without prejudice or disclaimer, to define the invention in another form. Claims 4, 5, 10, 13-15, 17-20, 24, 25, 28-32 and 34 have been amended to change their dependencies in view of new independent Claim 63. Claims 1, 37-55 and 57-62 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

B. Status of the Claims

Claims 46 and 47 have been objected to, because the status identifiers for these claims are allegedly unclear.

Claims 2, 5, 14, 17, 18, 19, 30, 34, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Schnipelsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,229,297, hereinafter “Schnipelsky”). Claims 3, 6-8, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Chemelli (U.S. Patent No. 5,254,479, hereinafter “Chemelli”). Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Chemelli, and further in view of Zelin (U.S. Patent No. 5,821,399, hereinafter “Zelin”). Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Opalsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,498, hereinafter “Opalsky”). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Wozniak et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,781,683, hereinafter “Wozniak”). Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of McNeely et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,296,020, hereinafter “McNeely”). Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Cathey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,503,985, hereinafter “Cathey”). Claims 21-26, 28, 29, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Cathey, and further in view of Zier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,919,141, hereinafter “Zier”) and Pourahmadi et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0055167, hereinafter “Pourahmadi”). Claim 27 stands

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Cathey, in view of Zier, and in view of Pourahmadi, and further in view of Grundig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,221,238, hereinafter “Grundig”). Claims 31 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Pourahmadi. Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schnipelsky in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,827, hereinafter “Nelson”). Applicants traverse these rejections in view of amended Claims 2 and 3.

C. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 2 and 3 recite subject-matter neither taught nor suggested by the references of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants also submit that new Claims 63 and 64 are patentable over the references of record and are also in condition for allowance.

Since dependent claims 4-36 and 56 depend variously from Claims 2, 3 and 63, Applicants submit that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the case is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

The undersigned attorney may be reached at our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3858 (direct line). All correspondence should be directed to the address given below.

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